art at the heart Full Of Highlights

Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour today launched the program for the *art at the heart* national conference in Alice Springs in October, saying there were many highlights that would make the event one of the most important in the Territory this year.

Ms Scrymgour said experiencing the culture and art of the Arrernte people of the Alice Springs region would be a highlight of what will be one of the biggest conferences ever held in Central Australia.

“The Northern Territory Government has provided funding of $160,000 for the event – with early estimates that the conference will inject more than $2 million into the Central Australian economy,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“The Regional Arts Australia Conference will bring together diverse parts of the arts world – young and old, contemporary and traditional, Indigenous and non-indigenous.

“The three days will allow an exchange of ideas between musicians, performers, producers, volunteers, actors, artists and many more.

“It's a wonderful opportunity to further the arts in Australia, which has great economic, cultural and social importance for regions across the country.”

The opening of *art at the heart* will be on Thursday 2nd October, with the conference running from the 3rd to the 5th.

Ms Scrymgour said she was proud that Alice Springs had been selected to host the conference – with Central Australia boasting a magnificent landscape, a vibrant arts community and unique cultural practices and heritage.

“Central Australia is unique in creating new visions, songs, dances and stories from the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities of the region,” she said.
The Australian Government supports Regional Arts Australia’s national conferences through the Regional Arts Fund. The Australia Council for the Arts supports the artistic program for the conference. The Northern Territory Government is hosting the conference through Arts NT in collaboration with the Alice Springs Town Council.

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